

What is claimed is:

1. An Internet billing method comprising the steps by an Internet access provider of:

establishing a billing agreement with at least one customer and a remitting agreement with at least one vendor to bill a billing account of the at least one customer for products and services purchased over the Internet by the at least one customer from the at least one vendor and to remit to the at least one vendor;

connecting the at least one customer to the Internet;

obtaining transactional information over the Internet from communications over the Internet between the at least one customer and the at least one vendor related to a purchase over the Internet by the at least one customer from the at least one vendor, wherein the transactional information includes a transaction amount;

billing the transaction amount to the billing account of the at least one customer; and

remitting a portion of the transaction amount to the at least one vendor.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising

after the step of obtaining the transactional information and before the step of billing the transaction amount:

obtaining approval from a party other than the customer to bill the transaction amount to the billing account of the least one customer.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the approval is obtained from the provider.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the approval is obtained from a third party.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the approval is obtained over the Internet.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the approval is obtained during communications between the at least one customer and the at least one vendor.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the billing account is one of a credit card account, a bank account, a telephone number account, a cable television account, and an on-line services account.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the billing agreement comprises establishing a specification for selecting a billing account to which the transaction amount is billed.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the billing agreement comprises specifying a plurality of billing accounts and wherein the transactional information includes identification of one of the plurality of billing accounts to which the transaction amount is billed without specifying an account number.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the billing account is an account with the provider.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the billing account is an account with a third party.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of remitting comprises sending money.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of remitting comprises crediting a vendor account.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the vendor account is one of a credit card merchant account, a bank account, a telephone number account, a cable television account, and an on-line services account.

15. The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of establishing the remitting agreement comprises establishing a specification for selecting a vendor account to which a portion of the transaction amount is remitted.

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of establishing the remitting agreement comprises specifying a plurality of vendor accounts and wherein the transactional information includes identification of one of the plurality of vendor accounts to which the transaction amount is billed without specifying an account number.

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein the vendor account is an account with the provider.

18. The method according to claim 13, wherein the vendor account is an account with a third party.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein the transactional information does not include the billing account number to which the transaction amount is billed.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein the transactional information does not include any account number.

21. An Internet billing method comprising the steps by a vendor of:

establishing a remitting agreement with at least one Internet access provider to remit to the vendor a portion of a transaction amount billed to a billing account of at least one customer of the at least one Internet access

provider for products and services purchased over the Internet by the at least one customer from the vendor; exchanging transactional information over the Internet with the at least one customer related to a purchase over the Internet by the at least one customer from the vendor, wherein the transactional information includes a transaction amount; delivering the purchased product or service to the at least one customer; and receiving the portion of the transaction amount from the at least one Internet access provider.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving money.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving a credit to a vendor account.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the vendor account is one of a credit card merchant account, a bank account, a telephone number account, a cable television account, and an on-line services account.

25. The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of establishing the remitting agreement comprises

establishing a specification for selecting a vendor account to which the portion of the transaction amount is remitted.

26. The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of establishing the remitting agreement comprises specifying a plurality of vendor accounts and wherein the transactional information includes identification of one of the plurality of vendor accounts to which the portion of the transaction amount is remitted.

27. The method according to claim 23, wherein the vendor account is an account with the at least one provider.

28. The method according to claim 23, wherein the vendor account is an account with a third party.

29. The method according to claim 21, wherein the transactional information does not include the billing account number to which the transaction amount is billed.

30. The method according to claim 21, wherein the transactional information does not include any account number.